

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

IN 81249

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

STATE/INR	DIA	NSC/MC	SECDEF	JCS	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA/INR	NSC	NSA	DOO	ONE	CNS
DO/I	EXC							DER	FBIS	DCS	IRS	AIS	USIA

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to a unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

78-258-3

INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINAL

300626 Z

DIST 30 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 16 AND 17 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA IN VIENTIANE REGARDING THE
ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, IN HOUA
PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (29 MARCH 1968)

SOURCE:

1. ON 17 MARCH 1968 COLONEL SOTH PHETRASY, THE
NEO LAO HAK SAT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE,
COMMENTED THAT DURING THE ACTION AT PHOU PHA THI
THE PRO-LAO DEFENDERS TOOK 800 CASUALTIES AND THAT
AMONG THEM WERE 18 AMERICANS AND MORE THAN 100 THAIS
WHO WERE KILLED. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT

[REDACTED]

(dissemination) (dissem controls)

TROOPS AT PHOU PHA THI HAD BEEN MEOS. ONLY 100 OF THE DEFENDERS WERE LAO. (FIELD COMMENT: SOI'S STATEMENTS WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND HAD NO BASIS IN FACT. THE ONLY STATEMENT APPROACHING THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DEFENDERS WERE MEOS. AN ACCOUNT BROADCAST FROM PEKING BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH ON 21 MARCH CLAIMED THAT OVER 160 ENEMY TROOPS WERE WIPED OUT IN THE PHOU PHA THI AREA AND THAT AMONG THESE WERE 20 AMERICAN ADVISORS.)

2. ON 16 MARCH A PATHET LAO SOLDIER AT THE NEW LAO HAK SAT INSTALLATION SAID THAT THE PATHET LAO WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE PHOU PHA THI ON 12 MARCH (SIC) IN AN HOUR BECAUSE THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY HATED THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE PATHET LAO DID NOT ADMIT TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE ATTACKING FORCE, WHICH WAS NORTH VIETNAMESE.) THE SAME SOLDIER SAID THAT LAO ARMED FORCES UNITS CANNOT ENTER LIBERATED AREAS, BUT THE PATHET LAO CAN STAY IN VIENTIANE. THE

[REDACTED]

250

IN 81249

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

[REDACTED]
(classification) (dissem controls)

PATHEI LAO BELIEVED THAT THEY CAN ALSO CAPTURE
VIENTIANE IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THERE WOULD BE NO
PROBLEM IF THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEY
WERE COUNTING ON. VIENTIANE IS SMALLER THAN DIEN BIEN
PHOU, BUT THE PATHEI LAO DID NOT WANT TO SEE BLOODSHED
IN VIENTIANE. WHEN TIME CAME THE PATHEI LAO WOULD BE
ABLE TO CAPTURE VIENTIANE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID USIS USMACV
7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]